

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of locking user input elements on a small computer device, the method comprising:
 - receiving an internally generated locking signal, wherein the small computer device internally generates the locking signal;
 - setting a locked flag to indicate the user input elements are locked; and
 - ignoring input signals when the locked flag is set.
2. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
 - determining whether input signals relate to an unlock signal;
 - if input signals do not relate to an unlock signal, ignore the input signal; and
 - if input signals relate to an unlock signal, unlocking the user input elements.
3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2 wherein button presses create the input signals and wherein the act of determining whether input signals relate to an unlock signal comprises:
 - determining whether the button presses occur within a predetermined time period.
4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 further comprising:
 - displaying a message indicating that the user input elements are locked.
5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the small computer device comprises a timer and wherein the internally generated locking signal is generated following a predetermined time interval, the predetermined time interval managed by the timer.

6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 5 wherein the predetermined time interval relates to an automatic shutoff/sleep mode time interval.

7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the small computer device further comprises a calendar-type application program and wherein the internally generated locking signal is generated by the calendar-type application program in response to a predetermined event.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the user input element is a touch screen.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the small computer device comprises a timer used to automatically place the device in sleep mode after a predetermined period of time, the device further comprises calendar-type application program that provides reminder notifications to the user and wherein the device awakes from sleep mode when a reminder occurs during sleep mode; the method further comprising:

ignoring input signals to allow the device to return to sleep mode following a predetermined period of time.

10. (Currently Amended) A small computer system comprising:
user interface input elements;
a processing unit for recognizing user interface input signals; and
a locking application for locking the user interface elements, wherein the processing unit ignores user interface input signals when the user interface elements are locked and wherein the locking application receives an internally generated lock signal, wherein the small computer system internally generates the lock signal.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product readable by a small computer device and encoding instructions for executing a computer process for notifying a user of notification events, the process comprising:

receiving an internally generated locking signal, wherein the small computer device internally generates the locking signal;

setting a locked flag to indicate the user input elements are locked; and

ignoring input signals when the locked flag is set.

12. (Previously Presented) A computer program product as defined in claim 11 wherein the process further comprises:

determining whether input signals relate to an unlock signal;

if input signals do not relate to an unlock signal, ignore the input signal; and

if input signals relate to an unlock signal, unlocking the user input elements.

13. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 11 wherein the process further comprises:

displaying a message indicating that the user input elements are locked.

14. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 11 wherein the computer device comprises a timer and wherein the internally generated locking signal is generated following a predetermined time interval, the predetermined time interval managed by the timer.

15. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 14 wherein the predetermined time interval relates to an automatic shutoff/sleep mode time interval.

16. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 15 wherein the computer device further comprises a calendar-type application program and wherein the internally generated locking signal is generated by the calendar-type application program in response to a predetermined event.

17. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 11 wherein the user interface element is a touch screen.

18. (Original) A computer program product as defined in claim 11 wherein the computer device comprises a timer used to automatically place the device in sleep mode after a predetermined period of time, the device further comprises calendar-type application program that provides reminder notifications to the user and wherein the device awakes from sleep mode when a reminder occurs during sleep mode; the process further comprising:

ignoring input signals to allow the device to return to sleep mode following a predetermined period of time.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 4 further comprising:
displaying instructions identifying a predetermined input signal to unlock user interface elements, the instructions viewable by a user such that the user ascertains the appropriate signal to unlock the interface.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 19 further comprising:
unlocking the user interface elements with the necessary input signal.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 10 further comprising a graphical user interface indicating an input signal necessary to unlock the interface elements.